

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 229

Acknowledging the strong relationship between the United States and the Republic of Mali and recognizing Mali's role in building a participative democracy, providing leadership through conflict resolution and peacekeeping activities, and supporting the fight against terrorism.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 24, 2003

Mr. PAYNE submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Acknowledging the strong relationship between the United States and the Republic of Mali and recognizing Mali's role in building a participative democracy, providing leadership through conflict resolution and peacekeeping activities, and supporting the fight against terrorism.

Whereas the Republic of Mali attained independence in 1960 and has since maintained good relations with the United States;

Whereas Mali serves as a voice of moderation in the African Union (AU), the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);

Whereas Mali has forged a lasting peace with the Tuareg people, marked by the “Flame of Peace” of 1996;

Whereas Mali has participated in conflict resolution and peacekeeping activities in Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Haiti, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone;

Whereas Mali was the first country to agree to participate in the African Crisis Response Initiative and has henceforth cooperated with the United States in a wide range of military cooperation activities, security assistance efforts, and civic action projects;

Whereas since 1992 Mali has functioned as a model of representative democracy marked by a vibrant civil society and served as an example of peace and stability in West Africa;

Whereas Mali is an important member of the Community of Democracies and participated in the “Dialogue on Democracy” held in Florida in June 2003;

Whereas Mali is a society of broad religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity;

Whereas since the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001, Mali has been a partner with the United States in the global war on terrorism;

Whereas President Amadou Toumani Toure of the Republic of Mali visited the United States in June 2003 to discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation, economic development, and other issues, and was warmly received by President George W. Bush and members of his Cabinet;

Whereas Mali suffers a high rate of child mortality, maternal mortality, and illiteracy;

Whereas Mali hosts one of the largest contingents of Peace Corps volunteers in the world;

Whereas Mali, in cooperation with the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is striving successfully to minimize the impact of HIV/AIDS, and is working toward eliminating malaria by hosting the Malaria Research and Training Center;

Whereas Mali's macroeconomic policies and performance have merited inclusion under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) debt relief initiative;

Whereas Mali and the United States are party to the Treaty on Cultural Property and the United States has provided a grant under the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation that supports the Timbuktu Islamic Manuscript Preservation project;

Whereas Mali, home of the Ghana, Malinke, and Songhai empires and of the ancient seat of learning, Timbuktu, is featured in the 37th Annual Smithsonian Folklife festival on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.; and

Whereas Mali is a key ally of the United States in a strategically important region: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) acknowledges the strong relationship be-
4 tween the United States and the Republic of Mali;

5 (2) applauds Mali for building a democratic so-
6 ciety, developing a vibrant civil society, and pro-
7 viding leadership in conflict resolution and peace-
8 keeping activities;

1 (3) recognizes the support and assistance Mali
2 has provided in combating terrorism; and

3 (4) encourages expanded relations between the
4 United States and Mali on issues of importance to
5 the two countries, including assistance programs
6 aimed at promoting economic development in Mali.

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